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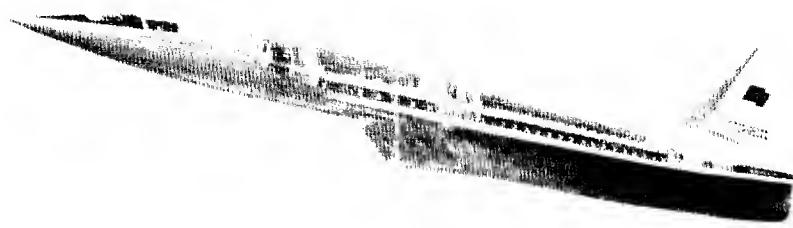
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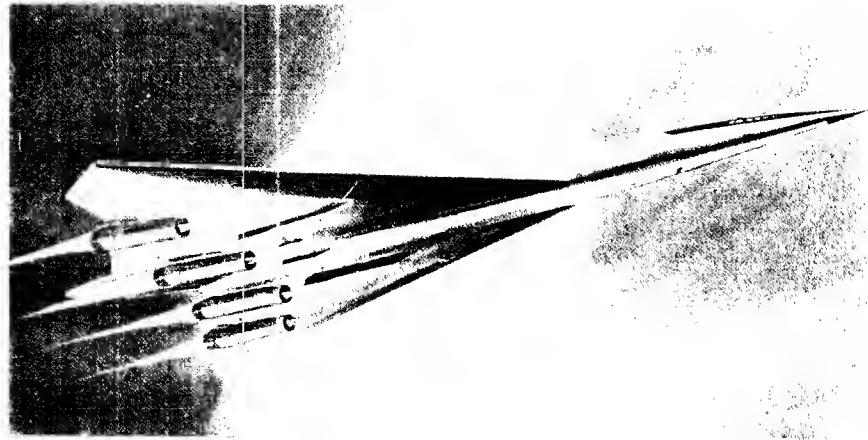
The SUPersonic TRANSPORTS.....



The ANGLO-FRENCH CONCORDE



The SOVIET TU-144



BOEING'S 2707

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France-UK: [The maiden flight of the Anglo-French Concorde supersonic transport, originally scheduled for 28 February, will be delayed at least two months.]

[The delay has been caused by problems with the installation and check-out of various systems. Other problems are likely to cause further delays. The manufacturers still hope to get the aircraft into service in 1971.]

[Two other supersonic transports are on the boards. The Boeing 2707 may enter service about 1975 if serious problems are not encountered. The USSR's TU-144, which the Soviets claim will begin flight tests in early 1968, probably will not fly before midyear. It is scheduled to enter service at about the same time as the Concorde.]

[The Concorde did not fall under the ax in Britain's latest budget cuts but could be affected if the UK is forced to trim its budget further. A decision to withdraw could also occur at the time London and Paris must commit themselves to series production of the aircraft. The production decision will have to be made within about a year if additional delays are to be avoided.]

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Brazil: [President Costa e Silva may not decide for several months between Northrop F-5s and French Mirage supersonic jets.]

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[Recognizing that the US may not make F-5s available to Latin America, however, Costa e Silva probably will keep his French option open at least until any proposed purchase from the US is guaranteed.]

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[High-level air force officers are exerting considerable pressure in favor of the Mirages. They cite the excellent terms reportedly offered by the French, the Mirage's recognized capability, and the possibility that a plant to build jet trainers would be part of the deal. If Costa e Silva were to choose the F-5 now, he would not only risk alienating these officers but could also lay himself open to charges that he is a "servant of the Yankees."]

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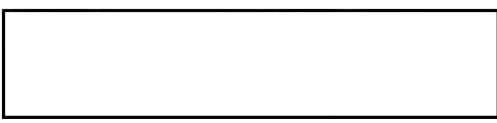
Mali: Regime militants in youth and labor groups and in the civilian militia have forced the ouster of moderate deputies in the National Assembly whose loyalty to Mali's "socialist option" the militants suspected. The assembly voted on 16 January to dissolve and to entrust President Keita with the responsibility of deciding how the popular will can be represented in the future. The move follows earlier purges of old-guard elements from the ruling party and the bureaucracy. Despite the increasing strength of the militants, Mali has been pursuing a phased return to the French economic fold, a move long urged by the moderates.

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